IN LOVING MEMORY

OF

Mary Ruth VanHook Crayton

Sunrise July 9th, 1913 *Sunset May 28th, 2011*

Services held

Monday June 6th , 2011

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church

684 Juliga Woods Street

(formerly Erlandson Street)

Richmond, CA 94804

Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Bernstine - Pastor

Rev. Samuel L. VanHook - Officiating Minister

OBITUARY

Mary Ruth VanHook Crayton, affectionately known as Aunt Mae, was born July 9, 1913 to Eugene and Mattie Florence Butler in Prescott, Arkansas. She accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized by Rev. J. H. Hinton. She married Lewis Napoleon VanHook and they had 10 children. She was later married to Earl Crayton.

In 1943 Mary and Napoleon relocated their family from Arkansas to Richmond, California. She worked many jobs, including being a welder at the Richmond Kaiser Shipyard #3 during World War II. This effort led to her becoming a "Rosie the Riveter" honoree. Because of her dedication and commitment to the Lord, she immediately united with a local church and began her active missionary work. She participated in many of the church auxiliaries.

During Mary's lifetime she never allowed any grass to grow under her feet. She was always busy using her gifts in service to the Lord by helping others. Her hobbies and talents included canning, fishing, quilting, gardening, cooking, teaching, and raising children. She loved to sing and enjoyed having the family Sing-alongs.

Throughout her life she gave freely to others in need, most recently by providing quilts to the hurricane Katrina and Ivan victims in Louisiana and Texas, earthquake survivors in Haiti and villagers in Africa. She also established the outreach program at Mt. Cana M.B.C. through which the membership would visit Richmond area rest homes and provide lap quilts, socks, and cards to the residents. Her service didn't end there as she also cooked and canned fruits and vegetables and shared with all that were in need. In 2001 she was honored by the Richmond Democratic Club for outstanding community service.

She leaves behind two sisters, Corine Bayless and Pearline Butler of Berkeley, Ca.; three sisters-in-law, Wadie Bell, of Berkeley Ca., Ethel Brown of Richmond, Ca., and Sallie VanHook of Concord, Ca.; nine children, Ruby Woolridge of Oakland, Ca., Clotee Willis of Mansfield, Tx., Clarence VanHook (Jeffrie) of Guinda, Ca., Clarice Williams of Richmond, Ca., Eugene VanHook, Shelby Brown and Armistice Bailey all of San Jose, Ca., Florenzo VanHook of Albany, Ca., and Samuel VanHook (Catherine) of Vallejo, Ca.; thirty-nine grandchildren; a host of great grand and great-great grandchildren along with countless other relatives and friends.

She leaves many precious memories...Aunt Mae may be gone from our sight but never from our hearts.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiating Minister……Rev. Samuel L. VanHook

Processional……Ministers & Family

Scriptures:
Old Testament……Pulpit
New Testament……Pulpit
Prayer……Pulpit

Selection……Mt. Cana Choir

Acknowledgements/Condolences/Obituary…… Tonya Bailey

Selection……Cherrie AnnVanHook

Remarks (limit 2 minutes)……Family/Friends

Pastoral Reflections……Rev. Marcus VanHook

Selection……Rev. Robert Walker

Eulogy……Rev. Florenzo VanHook

Viewing

Recessional

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Allegra VanHook
Kelly Bailey
Rhonda Bailey
Beverly Joyce Williams

Cherrie Ann VanHook
Renaee White
Lisa Jones
Vivian Lamb

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Ryan Bailey
Leslie Roy Ingram
Lennis VanHook
Lamont VanHook
Lawrence VanHook
Marcus VanHook
Napoleon VanHook
Raytheon VanHook
Rodney VanHook
Samuel VanHook Jr.
Joseph Williams
David Woolridge
Donald Woolridge
Lewis Woolridge

Tonya Bailey
Yvette Griffin
Casandra May
Hattie Tate
Deneen VanHook
Shelia VanHook
Tamara VanHook
Trinsis Ingram VanHook
Juanita Webb
Celie Woolridge

Interment
Sunset View Cemetery
Colusa & Fairmount Avenues
El Cerrito, CA

Psalm 27:1-6 (KJV)

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell.
Though an host should emcamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.
One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.
For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.
And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me: therefore will I offer in his tabernacle sacrifices of joy; I will sing, yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD.

*****

Aunt Mae's Little Talk with Jesus

Oh Mary, oh Mary don't weep and be weary,
How did your family grow?

Through cotton fields on wagon wheels,
ten children all in a row.

Oh Mary, oh Mary, don't weep and be weary.
Why do you love me so.

If thou withdraw thou self from me
Oh whither shall I go.

Oh Mary, oh Mary when you get to heaven
what things would you like to do.

A little quilting, a little fishing, a little gardening,
and a whole lot of praising you.

***

Clarence VanHook

As Aunt Mae would say…
"Love ya!- Love ya! - Love ya!

Cultural center envisioned for Prusch Park

Gardening, Quilting and Fishing

Aunt Mae's Prayer

"Eternal Father, we come now. We come in the name of Jesus. We come thanking you for your many blessings. We thank you for watching over us all night while we slumbered and slept. You touched us this morning with your finger of love. As our eyes opened, we began to move and have our being.

Father we just thank you. We come praising your Holy name. Father, don't let us come now for no shape, form, or fashion, neither an outside show to an unfriendly world. We come, Father, to lift your name. For you said, 'that if I be lifted up I'll draw all men unto me.

I ask you to give us strength, Father, to go on in your name and to know that you are God and besides you there is no other. I want you to just bless us all. Bless each and every one under the sound of my weak voice. Give me the strength to go on in your name and to tell wicked men and dying women that you love them and giving them a chance too. Lord take us and carry us on through.

And dear Jesus when we have to quit this walk of life, and when we have to hang our war tools in the time of battle, and when we can't study sin and Satan and war no more we ask you to meet us at the river of Jordan and cross us over in a calm time where we can spend and praise thy name forever and hear your voice say well done.

These blessings and all others we ask in Jesus' name, and for our sake we pray. Amen

*****

Aunt Mae's entire family would like to express our deepest gratitude for every kindness and expression of love you have shown during our loss. We would like to thank you for helping us celebrate Aunt Mae's life. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.